

**Members Present:** Jim Anderson, Abdi Hussein, Rand Middleton, Rachel Skretvedt, Val Swanson and Julie Asmus, City Council Representative

**Staff Present:** Rob Baumgarn, Eric Banks, Britta Diem, Curt Hein, Ryan Scheffler, Sara Sietsema and Becky Sorenson

**Guests Present:** Marv Calvin, Matt Dawson, Earl Knutson, Mary Sawatzky

Chairman Abdi Hussein called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Val Swanson made the motion, Rachel Skretvedt seconded, motion carried.

There was no one present for the public forum.

The first item on the agenda was the Robbins Island beach closure. A discussion was held regarding what the proper procedure should be. Sara Sietsema from the Waste Water Treatment Plant was present to talk about what the process currently is. As there is no document stating any policy, she feels that something should be created. Sara stated that every Monday or Tuesday, someone from the WWTP tests the water at the Island. Testing is done that day and, if the fecal coliform count is above the EPA's guidelines of 200, the beach is closed. Anything over the 200 guideline, you run the risk of people becoming ill. When the count reaches 200+, daily tests occur.

Rachel Skretvedt asked what other public swimming facilities do testing. Sara responded that no other public beaches test their water except St. Cloud. She said that testing at Robbins Island was started to combat the negative feelings towards the Island beach.

Sara said that Dave Hillenbrand thought this might be a good time to create a web page explaining the procedures, etc regarding Robbins Island. It was mentioned that instead of using the word "Closed due to high fecal coliform count", a better message could be developed. Val Swanson said she thought we should put on the sign something like the following; "For your safety, we test the water quality every week."

Mayor Calvin said he does not feel the City has the resources to test the water every week. He requested that we follow the County guidelines. Since we are investing a lot of money into the Island in the next few years, we don't need the bad press that is generated every time we close the beach. Sara Sietsema responded that there is not much extra staff needed. She said the time that is used is an hour unless the beach is closed and more time is required at that

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point. Approximately, the cost of the testing is \$50 per week. Testing is not required by the State.

Val Swanson stated that she prefers to keep the testing as is. Rand Middleton agreed that we don't want to have an outbreak of illness like Minnetonka experienced over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. He also asked if there is anything that can be done about the geese who seem to be the main source of the problem. Sara said numerous ideas have been brought forward, such as shrinking the size of the beach (geese love the wide open sand area), planting more tall grasses, using lasers. Would a fountain in the lake be a deterrent?

Based upon Sara Sietsema's presentation, Jim Anderson asked if there was a recommendation to continue as we are doing or follow what the County does. Val Swanson made a motion to continue testing the water. Jim Anderson seconded. Discussion followed. Rachel Skretvedt asked if we need to test weekly due to the low usage of the beach. Rand Middleton asked if we should get away from using the beach since we have the splash pad and the Aquatic Center. The motion carried with one no vote.

The next item on the agenda was Rau Park. Earl Knutson from the Kiwanis club presented a report on Rau Park with regards to updates at the park. The park was established by the City Council at the request of Mayor Erwin Rau in memory of his son David who died in 1959. Area Boy Scouts helped in clearing the land south of the road and planting trees. Their contributions to the park and the community are noted on two engraved metal plaques mounted on boulders on either side of the road. The Willmar Kiwanis Club adopted the park later and erected a shelter and minimal picnic facilities. In 1987, the Kiwanis and the City looked at the area across the road and developed a plan for clearing the area of overgrown brush, weeds and trees.

On June 20, 2019, members of the Kiwanis Club met with Gary Manzer and Paul Tinklenberg to discuss updates to the park. Some of the issues discussed were the parking lot, over-population of trees and heavy vegetation on the banks. According to Gary, the cost for paving the parking lot could be around \$35,000 which the Kiwanis would need to budget for. In the mean-time, the City will provide and spread some crushed rock. Regarding the tree over-growth, the City removes trees only as they die. Any aggressive thinning will require developing a consensus plan. Rob mentioned that a five year plan for the park will be developed.

The immediate project the Kiwanis would like to undertake is placing a new sign at the park. A drawing of the new proposed sign was handed out. Mr. Knutson asked for the Park & Rec Board's approval.

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Julie Asmus asked if the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts could do projects at the park. Curt Hein stated that we haven't had much contact with the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts since Cal Miner retired. The north side of the park really needs work because of the overgrowth.

Rachel Skretvedt made a motion to approve the design and donation and placement of the sign. Val Swanson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was Invest in Willmar. Matt Dawson was present to give a quick over-view. The committee is overseeing the Local Option Sales Tax money. Funding is approved at the State of Minnesota. There were two motions made and approved at the noon meeting.

The first motion was to ask the City Council to direct staff to start the process to do an RFP which is a request proposal to local construction management companies who would manage the projects. The companies that have been approached are Terwisscha Construction, Marcus Construction and Bolton and Menk.

The other motion was to hire an architect who would work with the construction management company to design projects, costs

Invest in Willmar is looking for a motion to support the two motions to hire construction management company and architect. The mayor stated that there should be two separate motions.

Jim Anderson asked Matt about the breakdown of how the money is going to be spent.

\$7 million for stormwater, \$3 million for Robbins Island – Civil Engineering work

\$20 million – \$2 million for Swanson; \$2 million for Community Center, \$8 million for Event Center, \$2 million for outdoor covered rinks, and \$6 million for turf fields.

The \$20 million will be what the construction management company will be overseeing.

Jim Anderson asked for a motion to move forward with Invest in Willmar's motion to go to the City Council to hire a construction management company. Mayor Calvin stated construction management company at risk. Motion made by Rachel Skretvedt, seconded by Rand Middleton, motion carried.

The second motion to recommend Invest in Willmar to go to the City Council to hire an architect. Rachel Skretvedt made the motion, Val Swanson seconded. Mary Sawatzky stated that this does

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not necessarily mean one architect, that there are many projects and more than one architect may be hired. After some discussion, the motion was clarified to state the City Council do an RFP to hire architectural services. Motion carried. Mayor Calvin thanked Matt Dawson and Mary Sawatzky for their services.

The four season shelter update – Curt Hein stated that on July 12 Richard Engan sent out project manual and plans to various construction companies. Advertising went out for bids in the West Central Tribune, also sent out to various e-sites. Tomorrow will be pre-bid meeting at Robbins Island with contractors who are interested in bidding if they have any questions. Bids are due on July 31.

Rob stated that we met our goal to get the four season shelter out for bid. Now we just have to cross our fingers that the bids come in under or at budget. Rachel Skretvedt was concerned regarding the road and the bike/walk path. If the path will be crossing the road, where is the safest place.

Rob stated that there will be no extension to the deadline so the shelter needs to be completed by June 30, 2020.

The next item discussed was the City/School facility agreement. The agreement originally was created for nine months to see how well it went. The agreement ended June 30, 2019 so we need to renew for two years. The School does still get charged for ice time. The only charges would be for consumables or for custodial fees. Rob stated that he, Eric and Ryan are site supervisors so we would not need to have a custodian on duty for the whole time. After some discussion, Val Swanson made a motion to extend the agreement for two years. Rand Middleton seconded. As there was no further discussion, motion carried.

The next item was the bylaws. As time was running short, Rob asked that everyone look over the bylaws so a discussion can be held at the next meeting. We also need to set expirations for member terms since everyone started the same time. According to the City Charter, there shall be 7 board members with a 3 year term, serving no more than 2 consecutive terms. Terms of no more than 3 and no less than 2 shall expire in a single year. So we need 3 to serve a 3 year term, 2 to serve a 2 year term and 2 to serve a 1 year term. Everyone volunteered to serve the 1 year term. Rob stated we could do a drawing to determine terms. He also stated it would be nice to have people who want to stay on because of all the projects coming up

Jim Anderson asked about Invest in Willmar, if they would be attending each meeting. Rob stated yes, probably. According to the flow chart, Invest in Willmar gets information from the sub groups (Swansson, Robbins Island, etc) to City Staff to evaluate then to Invest in Willmar

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Committee to approve it, then it comes to Park & Rec Board to approve then to Council committee, either Public Works or Finance and to the City Council. Rob said he wouldn't be surprised if there might be a special Park & Rec Board meeting once in a while to get things moving faster since we only meet once a month.

Coordinator's Reports followed. Ryan Scheffler started by saying there is only a couple of weeks left of summer programs. He is hoping to start a flag football program. Jim asked what his best program was. Ryan responded that he hoped all the programs were good. Julie asked if this was the first year that we offered Sports Sampler. Ryan said no but he had re-vamped the program a bit. Previously there were five or six sports each time. Ryan has changed it to one or two sports for two weeks and then different sports the next two weeks, giving the kids more opportunity to hopefully learn a bit more of each sport. Curt Hein stated that he has received many compliments from parents regarding the Park It program.

Britta stated that our white bikes are here. There have been over 250 transactions so far of people renting bikes. Community Center has had numerous events such as root beer float day, and the Senior King and Queen coronation; floors have been cleaned and waxed. Everything is also going well at the DOAC.

Eric said that adult softball went fairly well this year, not too many rain outs. Adaptive programs are well attended. New this year was backyard games where they get a chance to play different games (bocce ball, ladder ball, bean bag toss to name a few). Making plans for the fall brochure.

Rob stated the only thing he would mention is that we are getting pickleball courts at Sperry Park.

As there was no further business, Val Swanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Anderson seconded and motion carried.